

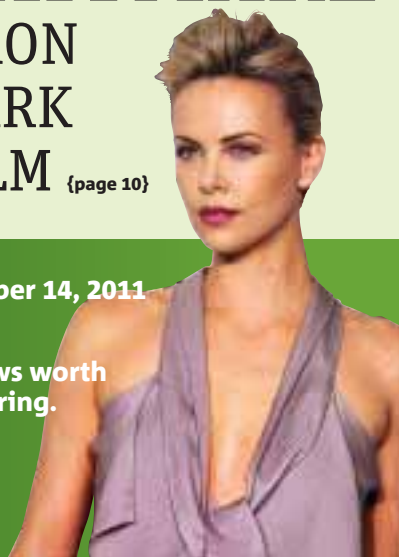
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BOMBSHELL
GRAND THEATRE ALUM
STARS IN WARTIME TV
DRAMA {page 2}



PROM NIGHTMARE

CHARLIZE THERON RETURNS TO DARK SIDE IN NEW FILM {page 10}



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Wednesday, December 14, 2011
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Mad. About YOU



ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

► Terry Yandeau, 20, of London, labels jars of apple butter yesterday at You Made It Café in the new Youth Opportunities Unlimited headquarters at Richmond and York streets. The café is slated to open in the new year, serving up food made by young people in the program. Some of the goodies can be purchased at the Covent Garden Market and Remark Market, 1180 Oxford St. W.

Getting ready for Christmas with a feast for the eyes and tummy

London caught up in dragnet

► Police probe dubbed Project Marvel began in May ► Gangsters assumed names of Marvel comic characters

Ruthless street gangs that terrorized a northwest Toronto neighbourhood led investigators on a crime sweep across Canada, police said yesterday.

It all started with two rival gangs — the Young Buck Killas, also known as the YBK, and the G-siders — who committed violent crimes in one particular neighbourhood,

Toronto police Chief Bill Blair said.

Investigators soon found links to serious criminal activity across the country. The massive investigation, known as Project Marvel, resulted in early morning raids in Ontario, Alberta and B.C., resulting in about 60 arrests and close to 300 charges.

More than 900 officers, includ-

Just the facts, ma'am

- Three people were arrested in London in Project Marvel.
- There was no word yesterday on who was arrested or what

ing 400 tactical officers, executed 67 search warrants in Toronto, Lon-

charges were laid.

- Thirty-one London officers executed two search warrants at two city residences just before dawn.

AM980/AM980.CA

don, Hamilton, Ottawa and other Ontario cities, and in Calgary and

Surrey, B.C.

Project Marvel involved gang offences, attempted murder, drug and firearms trafficking, robbery, shootings, prostitution and other crimes, police said.

Firearms, ammunition, drug monies and other proceeds of crime were seized.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1

news



Thinking of a career reboot? The Challenge Factory offers its clients the novel opportunity to "test drive" careers. Scan the code for the story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web at
metronews.ca



Transit riders in the U.K. are doing their best to keep pace with their Canadian counterparts' bizarre behaviour. Video at metronews.ca/video



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Acting journey so far a blast for local thespian

- Charlotte Hegele's first nibbles into a film career started on local stages
- Global's premiere of Bomb Girls set for 8 p.m. Jan. 4



COURTESY/GLOBAL TELEVISION

► Former Londoner Charlotte Hegele, 21, left, and Ali Liebert, a native of Duncan, B.C., portray Kate Andrews and Betty McRae in a scene from Bomb Girls. The six-part original series from Global will premiere at 8 p.m. on Jan. 4.



ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONEWS.CA

From the Grand Theatre stage to Global television, one might say Charlotte Hegele has officially made the "big leap."

"It's sort of one of those stories that everyone says, 'That's what acting is,'" said Hegele, a former Londoner. "It's what I've been working so hard for, but it's not a common story."

Hegele, a Central Secondary School graduate now living in Toronto, has pretty much managed to steer clear of the starving-artist stereotype that befalls many young actors.

Instead, at 21 years old and less than two years

out of training at Humber College, Hegele has earned a role in Global's original mini-series Bomb Girls.

The six-part show features Hegele as Kate Andrews, a young woman who finds herself in Toronto on the run from her abusive street-preaching father. Hegele's character is hired on at a Second World War munitions factory and, from there, her story — along with that of other women providing the power behind the battles — unfolds.

Hegele landed the acting job after a roller-coaster ride of emotions this summer. Including callbacks, Hegele racked up five auditions for the

Women's lib

- Set in the 1940s, Bomb Girls tells the stories of women from all walks of life as they work in a munitions factory, building bombs for the Allied forces.
- Global describes the characters as women who are thrust into a new world and who change throughout the six-part series "as they are liberated from their home and social restrictions."

Bomb Girls production team.

"I'd audition, a few weeks would go by, I wouldn't hear anything ... then they'd call and I'd be

excited all over again," she said.

While Hegele has a few television roles under her belt, including appearances this year on Murdoch Mysteries and XIII: The Series, filming Bomb Girls was a new experience.

In many ways, Hegele said, she learned more on the set than she did in school, partially thanks to more experienced cast members like Academy Award-nominated Meg Tilly, whose film credits include Agnes of God and The Big Chill.

"It's not something you can prepare for, that level of focus and professionalism you need," Hegele said.

Wind Mobile blows into town with \$10K grant

Wind Mobile officially launched in London yesterday with the announcement of the Wind thanks London Community Grant.

Wind will give a \$10,000 grant to one organization or charity in London to support a project that brings positive change to the community.

You can nominate projects for the grant online at WINDmobile.ca. The deadline for submissions is Jan. 13, 2012, and the grant recipient will be announced in February. ●METRO

Tool to play at JLC

Heavy rockers Tool are coming to the John Labatt Centre on Jan. 26.

Showtime for the Thursday night performance is 8 p.m.

Tickets (\$42.50, \$69.50) go on sale Saturday at noon. Charge by phone at 1-866-455-2849 or order online at livenation.com or johnlabattcentre.com.

●METRO

Parking lot completed

A new commuter parking lot has been constructed at Bradley Avenue and Veterans' Memorial Parkway.

The lot — a joint venture between the City of London and the Ontario government — can hold 56 vehicles and will be maintained by the City of London. This year, 224 highway construction projects have created about 17,000 jobs in Ontario. ●METRO

Christmas with Dickens

A reading of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol will be performed tonight at 7 at Centennial Hall. The reading and singing will be performed by Orchestra London, London singers, and H.B. Beal singers. ●METRO

Apartment hunt getting tougher: Survey

0.8 The average rent increase in London for a two-bedroom unit from 2010 to 2011.



The demand for rentals is up and the vacancy rate is down in London, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp.

In the CMHC's Fall 2011

rental market survey, the average vacancy rate was 3.8 per cent for the London Census Metropolitan Area. That's down from five per cent in 2010. ●METRO

Council



► Bud Polhill

HOSPITAL DISCUSSIONS
POSTPONED

Bleary-eyed and with no energy for a long discussion about heritage buildings, city councillors have delayed talks about redeveloping city-owned land in the SoHo neighbourhood.

In what was almost an eleventh-hour decision, members of the planning and environment committee decided in the wee hours of yesterday morning to push a report on South Street Hospital buildings into January.

Councillors were expected to hear a report on the land at 5:45 p.m. Monday. When the agenda item still hadn't been heard at midnight, it seemed better to just call it a day, Coun. Bud Polhill, chairman of the committee, said yesterday afternoon.

"We said, 'Look, we're tired, you're tired,'" Polhill said, explaining what happened at the end of the eight-hour

meeting that included a fire alarm clearing out city hall and a dinner break about two hours later. "People start to get kind of silly at that hour, you know?"

When the issue re-emerges Jan. 16, the city's planning staff is expected to give a full-out report on strategies — including financial — for the redevelopment. The discussion will likely be multi-pronged with various timelines for when the London Health Sciences Centre will vacate parts of the complex.

Since more talks were scheduled on the property for the new year, yesterday's decision doesn't delay progress on the issue, said Gregg Barrett, the city's manager of planning and research.

But packed agendas leading to long meetings are at least getting a bit of a glance from city staffers. ● ANGELA MULLINS

School of
pucks and
academics

► 23 students from Grades 7 to 10 are enrolled in a private school that combines both academics and hockey training

Every morning, deep in the core of the Western Fair Sports Centre, a group of students go through a punishing training session to kick off their school day.

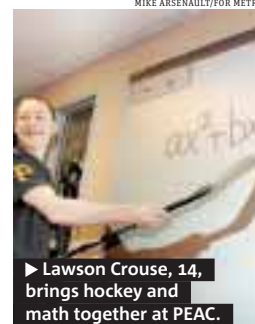
Then they head upstairs to retrofitted classrooms for school lessons for the rest of the morning before hitting the ice for an hour.

The school is called PEAC, and it's aimed at elite hockey players.

"There are four full-time teachers and they cover the same curriculum as the Ontario curriculum," said Dwayne Blais, owner of PEAC London. "It's a good chance for kids who are in love with (hockey) to go to school and also have an opportunity to work out and practice their skills during the week."

The program — while extremely rare in Ontario — is analogous to prep schools across the United States. Sidney Crosby attended Shattuck-St. Mary's in Minnesota before returning to Canada to play major junior hockey.

The main difference is that PEAC London doesn't have its own hockey team, although that is planned as



► Lawson Crouse, 14, brings hockey and math together at PEAC.

MIKE ARSENAULT/FOR METRO

the facility expands to encompass all high school grades. Players take what they learn at PEAC back to their club teams.

"We have a lot of players that play for the London Junior Knights and the Elgin-Middlesex Chiefs," Blais said.

Blais says he and his staff are upfront with parents about managing expectations for the future.

"There are no pipe dreams here, that you're going to get this or that," he said. "The biggest thing is that it's a private-school education (with) the addition of high-level hockey training."

● MIKE ARSENAULT

Making. Mukluks



► Rob Watkin, co-owner of Mr. Kwik Fix, puts new soles on a pair of mukluks yesterday morning at his kiosk in the Covent Garden Market.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

In the shoe business

The mukluks were custom-made on a First Nations reserve, Rob Watkin said. Watkin and his father have been fixing up shoes at the market after moving their family business to downtown from Westmount mall about a year ago.

Schedule

A day in the life of a PEAC London student:

- 8 a.m.-8:30 a.m.: Arrive at Western Fair Sports Centre.
- 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.: Off-ice training session.
- 9:30 a.m.-11:40 a.m.: Class.
- 12 p.m.-1 p.m.: On-ice ses-

sion.

- 1 p.m.-1:40 p.m.: Lunch.
- 12 p.m.-1 p.m.: On-ice session.
- 1:40 p.m.-3:30 p.m.: Class.
- 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.: Flex hour for extra school or training.

► For more info, visit peac.ca

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Gunman kills Belgian shoppers

► Hundreds flee as grenades lobbed into market, bullets fired
► Attacker found dead at scene

Summoned for questioning by Belgian police, a man with a history of weapons and drug offences left home armed with hand grenades, a revolver and an assault rifle. Stopping at a central square filled with holiday shoppers, he lobbed three grenades into the crowd, then opened fire.

Four people were killed, including an 18-month-old toddler, and 122 were wounded in the assault yesterday that brought tragedy to the pre-Christmas season of students revelling in exam results and preschoolers enchanted by brightly lit trees and holiday stalls. Authorities said the shooter also died.

The midday attack in the eastern Belgian city of Liege sent hundreds of panicked shoppers stampeding down the cobbled streets of the old city, fleeing explosions and bullets.

Belgian authorities identified the shooter as Nor-

Recent attacks

► In Italy yesterday, a man opened fire in an outdoor market in Florence, killing two vendors from Senegal and wounding three other immigrants before killing himself. Investigators identified the attacker as 50-year-old Gianluca Casseri, and RAI state TV said he was known to police for having participated in racist marches by an extreme right-wing group.

► In Norway last July, far-right extremist Anders Behring Breivik went on a bomb and shooting spree that killed 77 people around Oslo.

dine Amrani, a 33-year-old Liege resident who had done jail time for offences involving guns and drugs, and had been called in for questioning in a sexual abuse case.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Police officers guard the street, following a grenade attack in the city centre of Liege, Belgium, yesterday.

Brother made up story in Shafia case: Crown

A Montreal family accused of killing three children concocted a story that could help absolve them of guilt and told a surviving child to go along with it — but he slipped up, prosecutors alleged in court yesterday.

Mohammad Shafia, 58, his wife Tooba Yahya, 42, and their son Hamed, 20, have told police that the night of the deaths, their eldest daughter came into their motel room to bor-

row the car keys.

The Crown alleges the now-deceased children were killed before the family checked into the motel, and that they made up the story about the car keys to place the girls at the motel alive, which would fit with their assertion that the deaths were a joy ride gone wrong.

Shafia sisters, Zainab, 19, Sahar, 17, and Geeti, 13, and Rona Amir Mohammad, 52, Shafia's oth-



► Mohammad Shafia leaves the holding cell at the Frontenac county courthouse in Kingston, Ont., on Dec. 8.

er wife in a polygamous marriage, were found dead in a car submerged in a canal in Kingston, Ont., on June 30, 2009.

Another brother to the girls, who cannot be identified by court order, was under cross-examination as a defence witness yesterday, and Crown attorney Gerard Laarhuis hammered him about his statement to police that Zainab came to the motel room that night to borrow his

cellphone.

Laarhuis suggested that never happened, and further, that inconsistent statements to police that it might have been his mother who wanted to borrow his phone, point to a mistake on his part.

The lengthy cross-examination was often testy or defensive, and riddled with several objections from the three defence lawyers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario slams feds over health care

Ontario is accusing the federal Conservatives of renegeing on their poll promise to maintain annual increases in health-care funding to

the provinces — the first war of words in what's expected to be a contentious debate over a new health accord. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Inmate takes female prison worker hostage

Negotiations continued throughout the day yesterday to free a corrections employee who was taken hostage by an inmate at a federal prison in Quebec's

Eastern Townships.

The inmate barricaded himself in a room in the Cowansville penitentiary, locking himself there with the worker who was in the area with him.

Corrections Service of Canada said there were no immediate reports of injuries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gun found in bag of donated clothes

Volunteers in Didsbury were shocked to find a sawed-off shotgun in a bag of donated clothes Monday.

Residents at the Knox

United Church Thrift Store were organizing donations when they found the unloaded .22-calibre rifle.

● METRO

Gold and Silver Coins Selling for Highest Prices in Over 30 Years Due to Weak Economy and It's Happening Right Here in London!

By **DAVID MORGAN**
STAFF WRITER

ICC will be placing ads in newspapers, radio and running television spots this week asking people to bring in any old silver and gold coins made before 1968 and U.S. coins made before 1970. Those that bring in their coins will be able to speak with collectors one on one and have their coins looked at by a specialist. With the help of these ICC members, offers will be made to those that have coins made before 1968. Offers will be made based on silver or gold content and the rarity of the coins. All coins made before 1968 will be examined and purchased including gold coins, silver coins, silver dollars, all types of nickels and pennies. Those that decide to sell their coins will be paid on the spot.

If you are like a lot of people you might have a few old coins or even a coffee can full lying around. If you have ever wondered what they are worth now might be your chance to find out and even sell them if you choose. They could be worth a lot according to the International Coin Collectors also known as ICC. Collectors will pay a fortune for some coins and currency for their collections. If it is rare enough, one coin could be worth over \$100,000 according to Eric Helms, coin collector and ICC member. One ultra rare dime, an 1894S Barber, sold for a record \$1.9 million to a collector in July of 2007. While that is an extreme example, many rare and valuable coins are stashed away in dresser drawers or lock boxes around the country. The ICC and its collector members have organized a traveling event in search of all types of coins and currency. Even common coins can be worth a significant amount due to the high price of silver and gold, says Helms. Washington quarters and Roosevelt dimes can be worth many times their face value. Recent silver markets have driven the price up on common coins made of silver. Helms explains that all U.S. half dollars, quarters and dimes made before 1970 contain 90% silver and are sought after any time silver prices rise. Right now it's a sellers market he said.

The rarest coins these collectors are looking for include \$20, \$10, \$5 and \$2 1/2 gold coins and any coin made before 1850. These coins always bring big premiums according to the ICC. Silver dollars are also very sought after nowadays.

Other types of items the ICC will be purchasing during this event include U.S. currency, gold bullion, investment gold, silver bars, silver rounds, proof sets, etc. Even foreign coins are sought after and will be purchased.

Also at this event anyone can sell their gold jewellery, dental gold or anything made of gold on the spot. Gold is currently trading at record high prices. Bring anything you think might be gold and the collectors will examine, test and price it for free. If you decide to sell, you will be paid on the spot - it has been an unknown fact that coin dealers have always paid more for jewellery and scrap gold than other jewelers and pawn brokers.

So whether you have one coin you think might be valuable or a large collection you recently inherited, you can talk to these collectors for free. If you're lucky you may have a rarity worth thousands. Either way there is nothing to lose and it sounds like fun!

What We Buy:

COINS

Any and all coins made before 1968, U.S. coins made before 1970, rare coins, entire collections, Silver Dollars, Half Dollars, Quarters, Dimes, Half Dimes, Nickels, Three Cent Pieces, Two Cent Pieces, Cents, Large Cents, Half Cents and all others.

PAPER MONEY

All denominations made before 1934.

GOLD COINS

Including \$20, \$10, \$5, \$4, \$3, \$2.5, \$1, Private Gold, Gold Bars, etc.

INVESTMENT GOLD

Kruggerands, Canadian Maple Leafs, Pandas, Gold Bars, U.S. Eagles and Buffalos, etc.



SCRAP GOLD

Broken and unused jewellery, dental gold.

JEWELLERY

Diamond rings, bracelets, earrings, loose diamonds, all gem stones, etc.

PLATINUM

Anything made of platinum.

SILVER

Flatware, tea sets, goblets, jewellery, etc. and anything marked sterling.

** That old class ring could buy the Flat Screen TV you've been wanting.*

** Odd gold earrings & broken jewellery could pay for a new PlayStation or Xbox!*



Here's How It Works:

- Gather items of interest from your attic, safe deposit box, garage, basement, etc. There is no limit to the amount of items you can bring
- No appointment necessary
- If interested in selling, we will consult our collector's database to see if a buyer exists. 90% of all items have offers in our database
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U.S. panel to drivers: Hang up

► Seeks nationwide ban on cells

U.S. states should ban all driver use of cellphones and other portable electronic devices, except in emergencies, the National Transportation Safety Board said yesterday.

The recommendation applies to both hands-free and hand-held phones and significantly exceeds any existing state laws restricting texting and cellphone use behind the wheel.

The board made the recommendation in connection with a deadly highway pileup in Missouri.

The board said the accident was caused by a 19-year-old pickup driver who sent or received 11 texts in the 11 minutes before the crash.

The pickup, travelling at 55 mph, crashed into the

"No call, no text, no update is worth a human life."

NTSB CHAIR DEBORAH HERSMAN

back of a tractor truck. The pickup was rear-ended by a school bus that overrode the smaller vehicle. A second school bus rammed into the back of the first bus.

The pickup driver and a 15-year-old student on one of the school buses were killed.

Thirty-eight other people were injured in the Aug. 5, 2010, accident.

While the NTSB doesn't have the power to impose restrictions, its recommendations carry significant weight with federal regulators

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gingerbread. You can be the 'icing'



► Look who's in our house: From left, Cathy Santos (BD), Maria Luciano, Nicole Druken, Annie Skelding, Caitlin Holdbrook (BD), Eva Baginska (BD) and Jillian Lewis (UNICEF Canada).

DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

Make Metro's house a home run

It's not just readership that Metro builds. We're also pretty good at building ... the Metro gingerbread house! UNICEF Canada has challenged nine media outlets to decorate gingerbread houses to raise awareness for the UNICEF Survival Gifts campaign. And you can help us. Go to facebook.com/UNICEF-Canada and Like the photo of our Metro gingerbread house. If you help Metro get the most Likes, UNICEF's corporate sponsor, BD, will donate — in our name — a real UNICEF survival tent to a community in need.

WATCHDOG

Fine rogue lobbyist: Shepherd

The national lobbying watchdog wants to be able to fine lobbyists who breach the rules.

Karen Shepherd is also looking for more protection, as well as more teeth.

She has asked a House of Commons committee to consider amending the Lobbying Act to allow her to levy fines in cases that might not warrant a formal reference to the RCMP.

As things stand, she says, she can only report to Parliament or call in the police when she finds problems.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sorry, kids ... Christmas will be a little late this year

When Emily Russell's two young sons wake up on Christmas morning, they'll find that Santa left them a note instead of the video games they requested.

"Hey, I couldn't get by your house last night," Russell, a single mother from Kernersville, N.C., plans to write to her sons and sign Santa's name.

"Your mom is going to take you to the store when she can."

Some people have always postponed Christmas celebrations because their jobs don't pause for the holiday.

But in the weak U.S. economy, folks are delaying Christmas for another reason: money.

Deloitte's annual holiday survey for the first time asked shoppers



► The crowds, the crush ... who needs it? Many people are postponing Christmas. And besides, the deals come later.

whether they planned to wait until January to do the bulk of their shopping for Christmas.

Six per cent of the more than 5,000 respondents said they did.

The strategy can pay off.

After Christmas, retailers offer discounts of up to 75 per cent on a wider variety of items than they do in the weeks leading up to the holiday.

Elaine Wu and her husband plan to wait until the day after Christmas to shop because they've agreed not to spend more than \$150 for each other — a difficult task given they like to splurge on upscale Marc Jacobs handbags and Armani shoes.

Wu says she's also waiting until after Christmas to shop for some of her friends. Real friends, she figures, wouldn't want her to go through the headache of shopping in the Christmas madness.

"Just because it's a day late doesn't mean it's going to be any less special or didn't come from the same sentiment," says Wu, 36, a Silicon Valley marketing manager. "It just means it's going to save us 60 per cent."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HACKER ARRESTED

Cyber Kiss had a sting for Gene

A Connecticut man affiliated with the Anonymous hacking group was arrested yesterday on federal charges for an attack on a website belonging to Kiss bassist Gene Simmons, authorities said.

Kevin Poe, of Manchester, Conn., appeared in court in Hartford, Conn., and was released on \$10,000 bond.

Reports said Poe and others linked to Anonymous attacked Simmons' computer systems, sending thousands of electronic requests designed to overload the server.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kennedy: Expose abusers

► Ex-NHLer tells U.S. lawmakers to end code of silence ► People who suspect something wrong must act on their 'gut feelings,' he says

Sheldon Kennedy stepped into Capitol Hill spotlight yesterday, urging U.S. lawmakers to "empower" anyone who suspects children are being sexually abused.

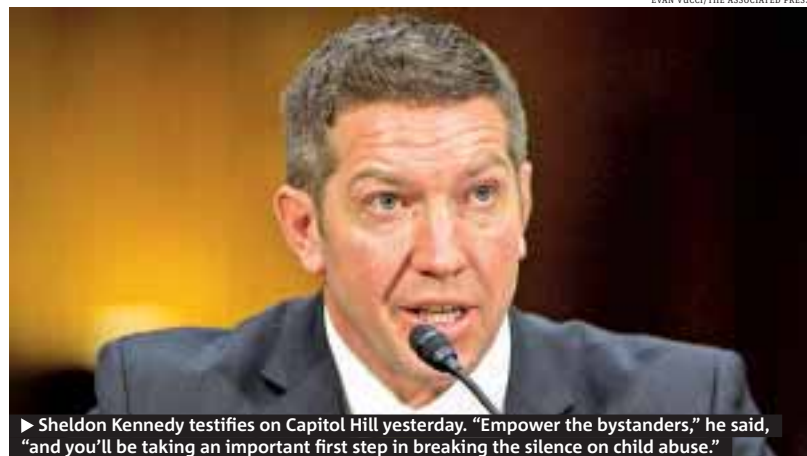
Under the glare of TV cameras, the former NHL player matter-of-factly told of the ordeal he suffered at the hands of his once-trusted hockey coach, Graham James.

"My abuser was International Hockey Man of the Year," Kennedy, 42, told the Senate hearing examining child abuse laws.

"In Canada, that gave him almost God-like status. Sound familiar?"

"The kids — and often their parents too — looked up to him as a hero.

"This was someone who could make their dreams come true and he used



► Sheldon Kennedy testifies on Capitol Hill yesterday. "Empower the bystanders," he said, "and you'll be taking an important first step in breaking the silence on child abuse."

that trust to hurt them."

Pedophiles count on the fact that most people have trouble believing trusted adults in their fields — coaches, teachers, priests — would ever abuse chil-

dren, Kennedy added.

James was convicted of some 350 sexual-abuse charges and served three and a half years in prison. He was quietly pardoned in 2007 — touching off a

national firestorm.

Last week, James pleaded guilty to fresh allegations of sexual assault. He will be sentenced in February.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sandusky says he'll fight to the end in sex-abuse case

Former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky is vowing, in his lawyer's words, to "fight to the death" in his child molestation case.

But Sandusky opted against a preliminary hearing yesterday, sparing his accusers from making their claims in a packed courtroom.

Sandusky's lawyer, Joseph Amendola, said: "There will be no plea negotiations."

The credibility of the witnesses would be a key issue. He said he believed some of the young men may have trumped up their claims and others may



come forward in a bid for monetary gain.

Sandusky, 67, is charged with more than 50 counts that accuse him of sexually abusing 10 boys over the span of 12 years.

He has denied the allegations, which led to the departures of longtime Penn State football coach Joe Paterno and the university president.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canadian debt up while income down

► Household debt has risen about twice the rate of income: StatsCan

Canadians keep taking on more debt even as they get poorer, a new Statistics Canada report shows.

Average household debt hit a new record high of almost 153 per cent to disposable income in the third quarter, a sizable jump from 150.7 per cent the previous quarter, the agency reported yesterday.

As well, household net worth declined by 2.1 per cent to \$180,100 from \$184,700, the sharpest drop in almost three years as the value of pensions and stock investments declined.

The report came a day after Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney again warned about the dangers

of household debt poses to the economy going forward. Canadians are more indebted now than the Americans and British, Carney noted, saying that they need to move to bring debt accumulation in line with income growth.

But analysts cautioned against taking too dark a view over household finances. "It's not black and white," said Benjamin Tal, a senior economist with CIBC World Markets. Most debt accumulation is from mortgages, and unlike the U.S. before the sub-prime fiasco, the segment of home buyers considered "marginal" in Canada is very small.

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Market moment

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(96.69¢ US)

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(100.14 US)

Natural gas

\$3.279 US
(+ 2.5¢ US)

Gold

\$1,663.10 US
(- \$5.10 US)

it, such as balances on credit cards, lines of credit and term loans are slowing down or even falling, Tal added. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Time. Out



► A shopper takes a rest with purchases at Northpark Mall in Ridgeland, Miss., on Nov. 25.

VICKIE D. KING/THE CLARION-LEDGER, FILE PHOTO

NDP accuses insurers of punishing the poor

Ontario's NDP accused auto insurance companies of charging lower-income drivers higher premiums because of their neighbourhoods, but the industry dismissed the claim yesterday.

Researchers, using the same driver profile, were quoted car insurance rates ranging from \$2,517 in Toronto's low-income Jane-Finch area to less than half that, \$1,153, if the driver lived in the city's upscale Lawrence Park area.

"There's no fairness. You shouldn't be judged by who your neighbours are. You should be judged by your driving record," said NDP Leader Andrea Horwath.

The Insurance Bureau of Canada said premiums are based on the history of claims in the area, a drivers' record and other factors.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. retail sales keep rising

Americans spent more on autos, furniture and clothing last month as retail sales rose for the sixth straight month.

McDonald's lobbies U.S. on a whole whack of things

McDonald's Corp. spent \$460,000 lobbying the U.S. federal government in the third quarter, on issues including immigration, menu labelling and debit card fees.

That amount represented a 48 per cent increase from the same period a year ago, when it spent \$310,000 on federal lobbying costs, according to disclosure reports filed with the House of Representatives. It was also up from the second quarter, when it spent \$370,000.

The world's biggest burg-

er chain lobbied Congress, the White House, the Department of Labor and the Department of Health and Human Services on the sweeping health-care changes that were signed into law in March 2010.

The new health-care rules will require more companies to offer health-care insurance to employees. McDonald's also homed in on a part in the law that would require more restaurants to add calorie information to their menus.

McDonald's also said it



► A McDonald's employee prepares an order during a hiring event in April at a McDonald's in San Francisco, Calif.

lobbied on proposed new federal guidelines that would curb marketing junk food to children. It also lobbied on a new law that gives the Food and Drug Administration more authority over food suppliers.

It also lobbied on fees that restaurants and retailers pay banks and other processors when a customer uses a debit card. The government capped those fees, and banks protested saying they deserve to be paid for the debit-card services they supply.

McDonald's lobbied the Burdensome Data Collection Relief Act, which would get rid of part of the Dodd-Frank banking law that requires public companies to disclose the ratio of the CEO's pay to the median pay of other employees in the company. It also lobbied the Lincoln Legacy Infrastructure Development Act, which encourages private companies to help build transportation infrastructure including roads, airports and railroads.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Teddy Bear Toss!

Bring a teddy bear to the game and toss it on the ice after the London Knights first goal! All toys collected are donated to the local Salvation Army.

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Giving Hope Today

AREN'T YOU PEOPLE SUPPOSED TO BE STRAPPED FOR CASH?

JUST SAYIN'...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO



Here's a Christmas question. If 40 per cent of Canadians plan to do some or all of their holiday shopping online, up 11 per cent over last year, why am I stalled in this two-block

lineup waiting to turn into the mall? You'd expect the malls to be decked with 40 per cent fewer shoppers. Not only that, there's a recession on, people. Aren't you supposed to be at home shivering in the dark instead of standing in front of me at the checkout, your arms full of holiday goodies, while your annoying children cling to you, wheedling for more?

Something doesn't add up here. Think about it. Walmart is open 24-7. You could shop at 3 a.m. and avoid me and the rush altogether. Of course, for all I know, there could be lineups at 3 a.m. too. I'm not curious enough to find out.

Then there's Amazon, eBay, Indigo, Best Buy, etc., where you can buy all your presents on your phone and angels in brown uniforms will deliver them overnight. And you can pick up gift cards for anything from iTunes to African safaris at the gas station or the drug store. It's simply not necessary to go out at peak hours, which are defined as those times when I like to do my own Christmas shopping: between 2 and 4 p.m. on weekends, prior to or immediately after my afternoon nap." Somehow the message isn't getting through. This year, I may have to do my

Christmas shopping on Dec. 28, which is far enough away from Boxing Day, which is just another excuse for people to get in my way.

I'm sure friends and loved ones won't mind. There's usually a big letdown after all the presents are unwrapped, and there's not much to look forward to other than four to six more months of winter. Getting thoughtful gifts on December 28 will be a surprise treat.

Look, it's not all bad. When I got to the mall near my place this past weekend, it was a zoo, as expected, but some marketing genius decided to offer valet parking: eight bucks. Drive up, hand the family SUV over to a professional, and walk directly into the mall. Best eight bucks I ever spent.

And my wife had just enough Christmas spirit left to bake the traditional family dark Christmas cakes. I helped by waiting until she had them all wrapped and stored, and only then snuck into the kitchen and plundered at will.

There are some things you just can't do online.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying



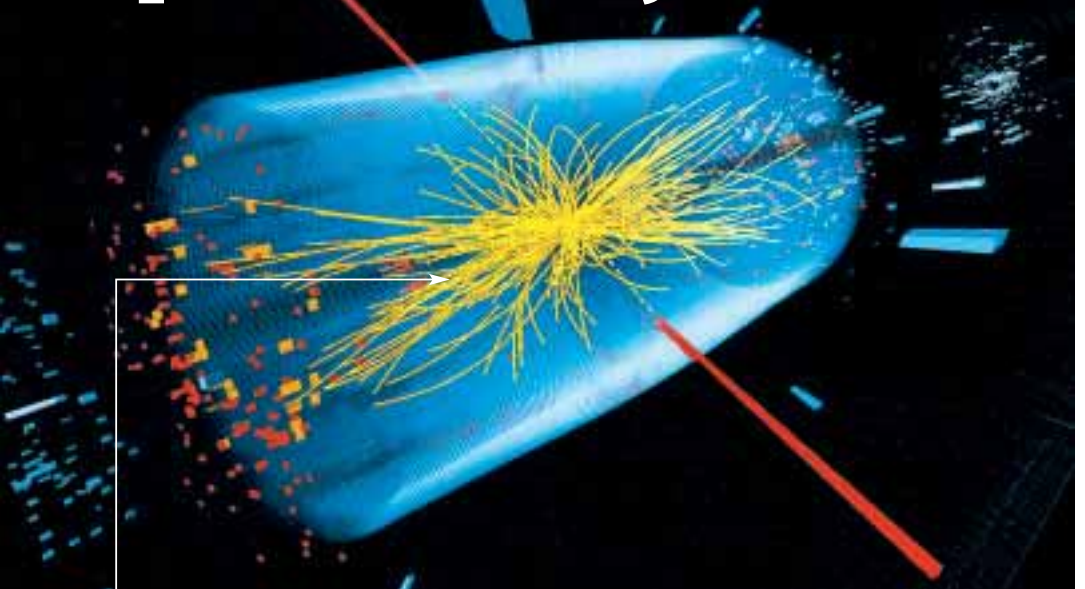
Local tweets



- **@Ferrari_Woods:** Best weather December in #LdnOnt has ever seen. I think so!!!
- **@YBAMan:** "At Ferrari_Woods: Best weather December in #LdnOnt has ever seen. I think so!!!" - but where is the snow?
- **@Kspeens:** Why is there not a silent zone in #fanshawe lib??? #takeme-seriously #iwannastudy
- **@supermario_47:** When in doubt, flip a coin. Dear #Loonie, I hope you put me in the right #course.
- **#Fanshawe**
- **@xtinarelke:** Went hard in Weldon from 1:00pm-4:15am. Well deserved sleep and back at it again tomorrow #uwo #examseason
- **@Voodoovaj:** #Ldnont cops have a vw beetle and it just pulled someone over #sucker #humiliating
- **@NikkehSass:** So I put the shell back on my winter coat and it's going to be 11C on Thurs? What the? #Ldnont #WinterWhatWinter
- **@dmrodrigues89:** "There are 2 calories per teaspoon of instant coffee, fyi" -cross #uwo #examtime

Daily Zoom

In particle they trust



Hints of God particle found

GENEVA. Science collides with faith in the God particle. After two experiments using the Large Hadron Collider, the world's biggest atom smasher, scientists at CERN physics center say they have glimpses of the Higgs boson subatomic particle, the last missing link in understanding the universe.

● METRO WORLD NEWS



"It would be extremely kind of the Higgs boson to be here. It's too early (to say for sure)."

FABIOLA GIANOTTI,
SCIENTIST AT LHC

How they find new particles

SCIENCE. Scientists at CERN have been firing particles in opposite directions around a 27-kilometre-long underground tunnel, known as the Large Hadron Collider. When particles reach near the speed of light, they crash into each other. The resulting debris is then examined for new particles.

● METRO WORLD NEWS

Higgs boson

- **Last undiscovered particle.** It's a mysterious particle thought to give all particles mass.
- **To give all things shape.** This helps particles form atoms, which shapes everything in universe.
- **Famous nicknames.** The brick that built the universe, Angel of creation.

2
scene

Charlize Theron: Closet nerd

► While talking about her latest film, *Young Adult*, Theron reveals excruciating details of her awkward youth and says that she doesn't need another Oscar



HEIDI
PATALANO
SCENE@METRONews.ca
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

It would probably be nice for Charlize Theron to get an Oscar for her performance in Jason Reitman's latest film, *Young Adult*.

Most critics seem to think she deserves one. But Theron herself notes: "I can't even think about anything like that... And plus I have an Oscar," she says, referencing her win for 2003's *Monster*. She catches herself with a laugh. "That was such an asshole thing to say."

Maybe the 36-year-old is just channeling her inner jerk because that's the nature of her character in the film, Mavis Gary, a divorced, young adult author and all-around mess. Gary returns to her hometown to track down her high school boyfriend, now married with a new baby, in the hopes of rekindling their romance. While promoting the film, which was penned by Oscar-winning screenwriter Diablo Cody, Theron revealed some of her own Mavis-like behaviours.

So much of the press for this film discusses what an unsympathetic character Mavis is. How do you see her?

I thought that the things she did were pretty despicable but then again, not to the point where I was disgusted by her. I never had a hard time not liking her.



► Charlize Theron plays Mavis Gary in *Young Adult*.

I would love to go and have a beer with her. I would never let her hang out with my boyfriend...

What I liked when I read Diablo's script was the idea of a woman who is dealing with very common mid to late 30s issues that women can really relate to but because of how she went

through life, is dealing with them the way a 16-year-old would deal with them.

She says things like, "don't you know love conquers all?" I mean, it's like the typical 16-year-old would say that and here she is 37, trying to get her life together and she just doesn't have the tools to do it.

With this and *Bridesmaids* we're seeing more of women behaving badly. Do you consider this a step forward?

I talked a lot about this when I did *Monster*. I think people get kind of freaked out when they see real women, conflicted. I think women are almost way more conflicted than men

Glasses girl

► Theron talks about her high school experience: "I wasn't in the popular crowd. I went to an arts school. I was obsessed with ballet. I wore really, really nerdy glasses. I was as blind as could be and boys don't really like big nerdy glasses. I had a massive crush on this guy that this interviewer who just did a story on me for *Vogue* actually found. This guy did not know I existed in school and he was all "yeah, tell her the crush was mutual." F— that. It was so not mutual. And then it was like, "I remember she wore those glasses."

and I think we come from a society where we're very comfortable with the Madonna/Whore complex.

We're either really good hookers or really good mothers. But we're not bad hookers and we're not bad mothers and we're nothing in between.

I grew up on cinema where guys got to do that — Gene Hackman and Dustin Hoffman and DeNiro got to play all those characters that I saw a little bit of myself in — those kinds of struggles and the lurking dark things.

I think women are getting a chance to play those kind of honest characters and also, people keep saying, "it's so brave!" It really isn't. It's just refreshing.

Box office



Charlie Sheen is returning to CTV with his new sitcom *Anger Management*. Sheen made the announcement Monday night with an on-air message that aired after his old show *Two and a Half Men*. Sheen was famously fired from the show after his volatile personal life and ridicule of the show's producer exploded in the tabloids. His new sitcom is loosely based on the 2003 film of the same name. Sheen plays an anger management therapist whose methods wreak havoc on the lives of his patients. "You seem like the nicest people in the world," Sheen said in the short broadcast. "But I know the truth. You're holding in a lot of anger. Why else would you drink so much beer, put on shoes with sharp blades, and smack each other around with wooden sticks?"

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Bosnian Serb war victim says Angelina Jolie's film should be banned, says it vilifies Serbs.

Young Adult



► Comedian, author and actor Patton Oswalt

'GOOD TIMES CAN KEEP HAPPENING, JUST NOT THE SAME ONES'

"How f—king amazing was she in this movie?" Patton Oswalt asks when one of Charlize Theron's scenes in *Young Adult* is mentioned. Playing the sidekick to a woman on a mission to seduce her married high school boyfriend, Oswalt went to great lengths to get his character right.

You used an acting coach for the first time with this role. Why did you think this character merited that kind of preparation? Because the script was so good but there was so much nuance and so

much of a delicate tightrope back and forth between despair and humour. The humour never came out of "let's stick a joke here." The humour came out of real human behaviour. I had this mix of exhilaration for being offered the script and then terror. I didn't want to do wrong by it because it was so well-written.

The film has to do with sentimentality and trying to bring the past into the present. Are you ever tempted to do that? It's very dangerous. I'm

just as guilty of it as anyone else. I think Frank Zappa said, "some day we're all going to die of nostalgia." Nostalgia is also an anagram for lost again. You have to keep moving forward because a big part of life is loss... It's almost like if you want the same good times to keep happening, that's what's dangerous. Good times can keep happening, just not the same ones and if you expect to be the same person having the same good time, then that's also really dangerous.

HEIDI PATALANO

THE CHIPS ARE DEFINITELY NOT DOWN FOR THESE RODENTS

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



The Chipmunks have done for small striped squirrels what Rin Tin

Tin did for German Shepherds. That is, it made the squeaky-voiced rodents big screen stars.

Alvin, Theodore and Simon have been well-known since they topped the music charts with the Witch Doctor's crazy chorus, Oo-ee, oo-ah-ah, ting-tang, walla-walla, bing-bang in 1958 but their new movies, including this weekend's The

"We felt that the public, and especially the children, like animals that are cute and little. When people laugh at Mickey Mouse, it's because he's so human."

WALT DISNEY

Chipmunks: wrecked, have turned them into the tiniest celebrities of the 20th century.

The three of them, along with furry actors like Despereaux Tilling, Fievel Mousekewitz and the gang from Once Upon a Forest have sold loads of tickets, but none would have made much of an impression if not for the pioneering work of the world's most famous rodent, Mickey Mouse.

Created in 1928 by Walt Disney and Ub Iwerks, Mickey is one of the most recognizable movie stars in the world, rodent or otherwise.

He's an Oscar winner with 175 movies, shorts and video games on his CV; and was the first cartoon character to have a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Mickey's fame endures, but why? "We felt that the public, and especially the children, like animals that are cute and little," said Walt Disney. "When people laugh at Mickey Mouse, it's because he's so human."

Mickey paved the way for generations of rodent actors.

G-Force is a sci-fi-spy film featuring a specially

trained squad of guinea pigs who prevent an evil millionaire from taking over the world.

Who could forget Mr. Gopher, the burrowing terror from Caddyshack? (Did you know the movie's gopher "voice" is made up of the same dolphin sound effects used on Flipper?)

Or Rizzo the Rat, the streetwise New Jersey puppet from The Muppets Take Manhattan and possibly the only kid's character named for Enrico (Ratso) Rizzo, a character in the X-rated Midnight Cowboy.

More sinister than Rizzo-despite his X-rated name-is Ben, the story of a boy and his rat. Best known for its Michael Jackson theme song — it's possibly the only love song to a rat ever released — the movie plays like a Disney movie, if they made a killer rat flick.

In the movie Danny, a bullied boy, befriends Ben, the leader of a swarm of telepathic rats.

When the police use flamethrowers to exterminate the rat pack only Ben survives, saved by his human friend.

"I love you Ben," says Danny. "You're the only friend I have."

COURTESY TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX



► Alvin abandons a game of shuffleboard, to the consternation of Brittany, left, and Simon.

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It's complicated: With simple songs

► **AMA's new artists of the year Hot Chelle Rae lay the groundwork for longevity by focusing on the fundamentals**

It's easy to get a Hot Chelle Rae song stuck in your head. It's not so easy to write one.

The breezy lyrics and infectious melodies that have come to define the pop band might seem simple, but guitarist Nash Overstreet says there's an art to coming up with uncomplicated hooks that compel everyone to sing along.

"When you really get into it and you investigate the whole writing craft, you realize how difficult it is to write something so simple and so memorable that everybody in the country can know it as soon as you sing two lines from it," said Overstreet, 25.

"We've learned so much through this

Swift success

Being exposed to the vibrant music community in Nashville has proved beneficial for the group.

- Ryan and Overstreet met country crossover star Taylor Swift in 2009 when they co-wrote and produced the rap spoof Thug Story she performed with T-Pain for the CMT Music Awards.
- This summer, Hot Chelle Rae got a major boost when Swift asked them to be special guests at one of her four arena shows in Los Angeles.

process, honing that skill and learning from producers and co-writers. We've just had a ball doing it."



► Hot Chelle Rae will be headlining their own Beautiful Freaks tour starting in February.

"There's a lot of sacrifices you make for the better of the song," added drummer Jamie Follese, 19. "I won't necessarily get to play the most crazy drum part, but it makes the song a lot better."

The four friends from

Nashville, Tenn., formed Hot Chelle Rae six years ago. They burst onto the scene this year, selling over 2 million copies of their smash hit Tonight Tonight, and dominating radio airplay with their follow up single I like it

"There's a lot of sacrifices you make for the better of the song. I won't necessarily get to play the most crazy drum part, but it makes the song a lot better."

NASH OVERSTREET

like that. They've been touring non-stop and were recently named new artist of the year at the American Music Awards. The band released a new album, Whatever, Nov. 29.

Whatever is Hot Chelle Rae's sophomore effort. It includes collaborations with hip-hop duo New Boyz on I like it like that, Demi Lovato on the ballad

Why don't you love me, and rapper/producer Bei Maejor on the song Radio. Lead singer Ryan Follese, 24, even plays kazoo on the track Downtown Girl.

Maejor has worked with artists including Ne-Yo, Trey Songz, T-Pain and Wiz Khalifa. He thinks fans are connecting with Hot Chelle Rae's music because they push the limits and use strong, familiar melodies.

"I heard a quote before ... 'Simplicity is the essence of elegance.' That means that simple is dope," said Maejor. "There's definitely a hard line between making it simple and catchy and simple and stupid, and I think they definitely make it simple and catchy." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



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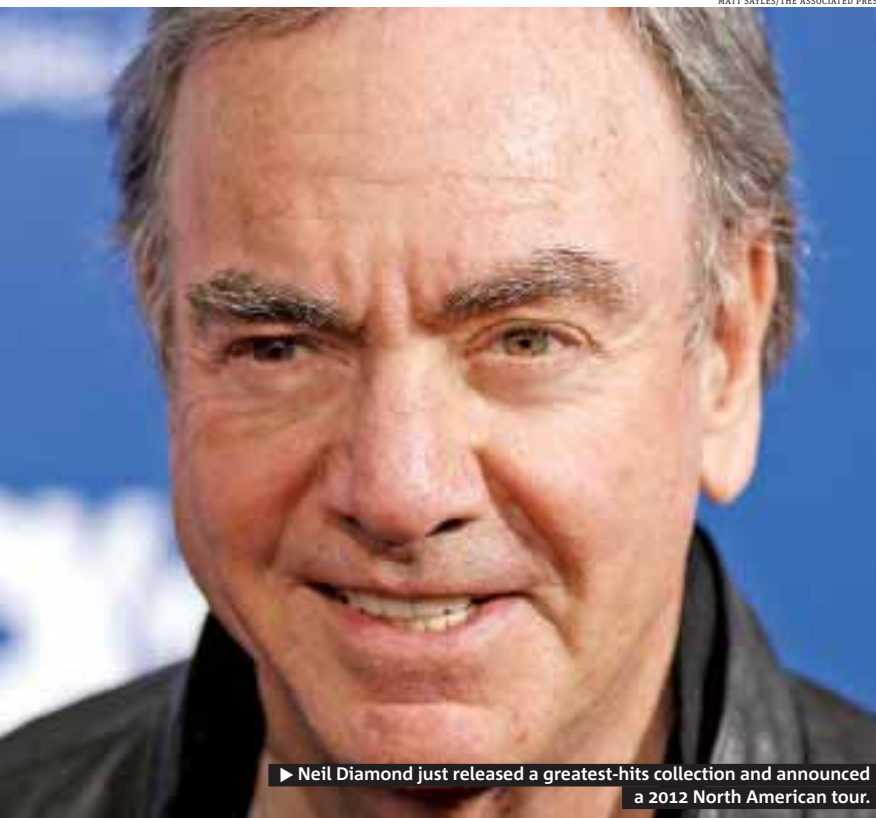
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► Neil Diamond just released a greatest-hits collection and announced a 2012 North American tour.

MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A gem of a year for Neil Diamond

► **Legendary singer releases new best hits album on the heels of becoming a Kennedy Center Honouree**

Neil Diamond has been a hit maker for more than four decades, but the 70-year-old singer-songwriter says that when he's alone in his studio, he sometimes wonders who will hear his music.

The answer, of course, is almost everyone, as evidenced by a stellar year that saw the Sweet Caroline singer inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, become a Kennedy Center Honouree, earn his 13th Grammy nod and release a career-spanning collection of greatest hits.

The Very Best of Neil Diamond, featuring 23 songs, was released last

Diamond

Coming to London

► **Show** Diamond will perform at John Labatt Centre on June 28 at 8 p.m. For tickets go to johnlabattcentre.com

week, just after he returned from the Kennedy Center Honors in Washington, D.C., where he shook hands with President Barack Obama.

Diamond is planning a North American tour to support the album next year, and he's also plan-

ning to marry his love, Katie O'Neil.

Diamond said 2011 has "definitely been one of the best years ever."

Still soaring from the Kennedy Center celebration he spoke about his latest run.

"It was like a fairy tale, really, because the White House is really done up for Christmas and I got the chance to bring my kids with me and three of my older grandkids, who all had the chance to say hello to the President and Mrs. Obama, and they were of course thrilled," Diamond said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Bullock suffers from first world problems

► To spoil kids or not? ► Actress struggles with hard questions at Christmas

Sandra Bullock is torn over what sort of Christmas to give her 2-year-old son, Louis.

"The less you give, the less they'll expect. And that way, if I give him nothing, he won't remember and he won't expect it next year and it's cheaper," Bullock tells Access Hollywood of the more frugal option. On the other hand, "I want the photo ops to be really great because he's not going to remember it, but he'll remember it by the photos and when he's 16 and says, 'I hate you — you're a horrible mother,'" she jokes. "I'll go, 'Do you see this Christmas? Do you see that I got you that life-size lion? Shut up! Get in your room and do your homework. I was a good mother then.'" **METRO**

"I want the photo ops to be really great because he's not going to remember it but he'll remember it by the photos"

SANDRA BULLOCK



► Sandra Bullock

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Talking points



Winslet leaves wounds of the heart, ex says

SUCK IT UP NANCY. To hear ex-boyfriend Louis Dowler tell it, Kate Winslet is a real heartbreaker.

"I don't think Kate behaved well and it is still very raw for me," Dowler tells the Daily Mail.

The pair dated after Winslet's divorce from director Sam Mendes, though she's since moved on to dating Ned Rocknroll, Richard Branson's nephew.

"I was in love with her and you can't switch that off overnight. I'm not sure Kate treated me well," admits Dowler.

"She met my parents and family. I thought we were inseparable. I certainly haven't found anyone else since."

METRO

Ryan Reynolds getting Lively

BLAKE LIGHTING HIS LANTERN Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds were reportedly "very cuddly" during a midmorning double date in NYC recently with Lively's older sister and brother-in-law, according to Us Weekly.

The Green Lantern co-stars and happy couple

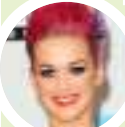
were "poking each other, giggling, and

Celebrity tweets



"I think people gossip because their own lives are un-gossip worthy...Live a gossip worthy life...!"

@katyperry



"Made the switch to iPhone ...now just waiting to grow thumbs..."

@HankAzaria



"In my hometown there was a fondue place that later became a crepe place. Then it became a french toast palace. The first 2 facts are true."



"NEWS: Discovery of a black hole the size of nearly 10 billion Suns. Oh, please. Yawn. I'm nominated for a Grammy."

@SteveMartinToGo

even seen leaning on each other in the booth," a source says.

The brunch wasn't without incident, though, as Lively "hit her head on a lamp as (she sat down in the booth) and put a napkin jokingly on her head."

METRO



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TO ENTER

Channeling New York Chutzpah

► New York City has the highest concentration of Jews outside of Israel ► Nosh on kosher food, watch the lighting of a massive menorah and visit some historic sites ► Mazel Tov!

Ellis Island

An obvious place to start is Ellis Island, where the ancestors of so many American Jews first set foot on U.S. soil. Boats run from Battery Park — schedules at statuecruises.com — to the National Park site in New York Harbor. The Ellis Island museum offers a wealth of artifacts connected to Jewish immigrants, including a photo of a kosher kitchen that opened on the island in 1911 and an eye chart with a line of Hebrew letters.



► Ellis Island

MARTY LEDERHANDLER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Kutsher's

Kutsher's Tribeca, which opened in November at 186 Franklin St., is the brainchild of Zach Kutsher, whose grandparents ran Kutsher's Country Club, a popular Catskills resort in its mid-20th century heyday. The menu reinvents and updates favourite Jewish comfort foods, offering savoury brisket meatballs,

chopped liver made from duck, and yummy matzo ball soup with dill. You can even order caviar with your latkes — though the roe is not from sturgeon, which isn't kosher. On Dec. 25, Kutsher's will offer a special Chinese-themed menu in honour of the American Jewish tradition of going out for Chinese food on Christmas Day.



► Kutsher's

BETH HARPAAZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Light the menorah

During Hanukkah, the Chabad-Lubavitch Jewish outreach organization sponsors the lighting of a massive menorah, about 10 metres tall, on Fifth Avenue and 59th Street near Central Park, between Dec. 20-27. Candles are lit at 5:30 p.m., except for the Sabbath, with a 3:30 p.m. lighting on Dec. 23 and an 8:30 p.m. lighting on Dec. 24.



► Menorah on Fifth Avenue and 59th Street

LUBAVITCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Go to Synagogue

Heading north, where Chinatown runs into the Lower East Side, you'll find the Eldridge Street Synagogue, 12 Eldridge St., eldridgestreet.org. It was founded in 1887 as the first great house of worship built by Eastern European Jews in the U.S. In 2007, after a 20-year, \$18 million restoration, a museum opened on site

about the synagogue and local Jewish history.

Other worthwhile stops include the Bialystoker Synagogue, organized in 1865 and housed in an 1826 fieldstone Federal style building at 7-11 Willett St.; and the Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy, which offers walking tours on New York Jewish history and operates a storefront visitor centre at 400 Grand St.



► The Ten Commandments displayed over the altar at the Eldridge Street Synagogue.

KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Museum of Jewish Heritage

The Museum of Jewish Heritage is in Battery Park City. Through summer 2012, the museum is hosting a fascinating exhibit about Emma Lazarus. Lazarus' sonnet The New Colossus with its famous line "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses," is engraved on a tablet in the Statue of Liberty's pedestal, and Lady Liberty can be seen from the museum windows. Lazarus was born in New York to an old Sephardic Jewish family; a letter about religious



► Hanukkah lamp from the 1920s at the museum.

THE JEWISH MUSEUM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

freedom from her great-great uncle to George Washington is part of the show. The Museum of Jewish Heritage was created as a memorial to those who perished in the Holocaust.

The Lower East Side Tenement Museum

The Lower East Side Tenement Museum at 97 Orchard St., tenement.org, is housed in a building that dates to 1863, but it was a time capsule when the museum acquired it in 1996: Its apartments had been sealed off since 1935. Tours now tell the stories of the people who lived there. The building housed immigrants from various backgrounds, but some tours focus on Jewish families.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► One of the apartments at the museum.

KEIKO NIWA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Jewish Children's Museum

The Jewish Children's Museum, in Crown Heights, Brooklyn (792 Eastern Parkway, Kingston Avenue stop on the No. 3 train), offers hands-on interactive exhibits about holidays and culture along with a climbing wall for young children and a minigolf course. Kids can crawl through a challah bread tunnel and go shopping in a kosher supermarket jcm.museum.

3

life

Travel in brief



A "snow village" to be set up in Montreal's Jean Drapeau Park — complete with hotel, restaurant, bar, conference centre and chapel, all made out of ice and snow — will be a North American first, organizers say. The \$2.1-million project — mostly funded by a group of Quebec entrepreneurs and Tourism Quebec — is scheduled to open Jan. 6.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Chabad sponsors public menorah lightings in more than 70 countries for Hanukkah

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Keep it simple — and impress

► This meat dish, which looks fancy but doesn't require much work, is ideal for holiday entertaining

EMILY RICHARDS

HOLIDAY HELPER

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA



Simple and tasty are key to helping you entertain this season and beef is the perfect choice!

Ask your butcher for a tri-tip roast for this recipe as the texture of meat is tender and juicy.

You can also use your favourite beef roasts such as a strip loin, rib or sirloin tip roast.

Serve it up with mashed potatoes or creamy polenta.

Preparation:

1 In small bowl, stir together oil, pesto, vinegar, soy sauce, spice mix and herbes de provence until combined. Spread all over roast and place on rack in roasting pan.

2 Oven sear the roast by placing it in a preheated 450 F (230 C) oven

Balsamic Sundried Tomato Beef Roast



Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp (30 mL) each extra virgin olive oil, sundried tomato pesto, aged balsamic vinegar
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) soy sauce

- 1 tbsp (15 mL) roasted garlic and peppers spice mix
- 1 tsp (5 mL) herbes de provence
- 1 bottom sirloin tri-tip oven roast about 2 lb/1 kg

for 10 minutes.

3 Reduce heat to 275 F (140 C) and cook for about 1 hour and 45 minutes or until meat thermometer registers 145 F (63 C) for medium rare or to desired doneness.

4 Remove from oven, cover loosely with foil and let rest for about 15 minutes. Slice thinly to serve. **EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR & TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA**

Holiday prep

► We're here to help
Next Wednesday is the final edition of Emily Richard's Holiday Helper. Check out metronews.ca/food for past editions.

Drink of the week

Isle of Mull

Scotch is the perfect winter drink, whether it's après-ski or after-dinner. Sadly, the liquor was mostly forgotten by the cocktail revolution.

For something more contemporary than a Rusty Nail, try this drink.



- 1.25 oz blended Scotch whisky
- .5 oz Bénédictine
- .25 oz Stone's Green Ginger Wine
- dash of Fee's Plum Bitters
- dash of cherry juice

Build the drink in a rocks glass (lots of ice), and garnish with sour cherries soaked in whisky.

JOE HOWELL, TORONTO BARTENDER

Talk the talk, reap the benefits

► Honesty and a genuine attempt at listening to co-workers can lead to greater things than just a happy office

MONICA WEYMOUTH
LIFE@METRONews.ca
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

It's a common workplace complaint in almost any industry: "There's no communication around here."

But as much as it might be lamented in the cubicles, managers are frequently baffled by the gripe, says Dianna Booher, a productivity and communications consultant and author of more than 40 books, including the newly revised *Communicate with Confidence!*

"It's a recurring issue. When I talk to CEOs, they're always puzzled. They say, 'How can people say that? We give out information all the time,'



says Booher.

"I can sum it up for them in four words: Information is not communication."

That said, don't be that guy whining about the lack of communication. Nobody likes that guy. Instead, be proactive and

raise the bar with these tips.

"People talk about voter apathy all the time, but a lot of times you see it in the workplace," says Booher. "But you can change things."

Tell the truth — the whole

truth

It's not enough to tell your co-workers that you'll hit the deadline. You also need to mention that in order to do so, you had to alter the project and rely on your strung-out intern to do sensitive research. "It's got to be the truth, but it also has to be the entire, current truth," says Booher. "If you withhold bad news, people go to other sources."

Make sure you have discussions

Evaluate your conversations with your co-workers: Is there a back-and-forth and some healthy debate on occasion?

It's a good sign if peo-

ple think your opinion is worth changing.

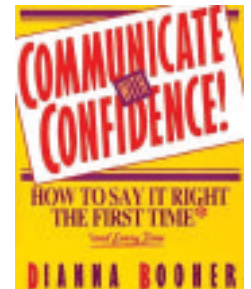
"If you feel like everybody agrees with you, something's wrong," says Booher. "There's a one-way communication system there, and that's not what you want."

Care, or at least get good at pretending you do

"It's a cliché that people don't care what you say, they have to know that you care about them when you say it — but it's true," says Booher. "If your staff thinks you only care about the numbers, then they'll tune you out."

Why it's worth it

Good communication is more than just a nice idea



to throw around at company retreats.

"Companies are far more profitable when there's good communication," says Booher. "Employees are more productive and there's less turnover. Most of the time, people don't leave companies because they don't like the work — they leave because they don't like the culture."

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4
sports

Quoted



"I am deeply honoured to win this very special and very historic award. ... To be recognized with this award for something I love to do, which is figure skate, means so much."

CANADIAN FIGURE SKATER PATRICK CHAN, AFTER WINNING THE 2011 LOU MARSH AWARD YESTERDAY. THE 20-YEAR-OLD FROM TORONTO WON THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS LAST SPRING IN MOSCOW, SETTING THREE WORLD SCORING RECORDS, AND WON THE GRAND PRIX FINAL LAST WEEKEND IN QUEBEC CITY TO CAP AN UNDEFEATED SEASON. THE HONOUR — DECIDED BY A PANEL OF NATIONAL SPORTS EDITORS, REPORTERS AND BROADCASTERS — IS GIVEN ANNUALLY TO CANADA'S OUTSTANDING ATHLETE BY THE TORONTO STAR.

NBA's December of disarray

► Unhappy stars, angry fans and frustrated GMs are focus of bizarre basketball pre-season

The lockout ended, but the NBA's woes were just beginning.

Dwight Howard asked to be traded. Chris Paul was dealt to the Lakers, it seemed, until the league decided he wasn't. So the Lakers made another trade, which Kobe Bryant hated. "Nobody's happy," Spurs forward Tim Duncan said.

He was referring to the terms of the new collective bargaining agreement, which in some ways are so similar to the old one that it's fair to wonder exactly what was the point of the five-month lockout.

But he might as well have been talking about the superstars who want new homes, the critics blistering commissioner David Stern for forcing one to stay put, or team officials charged with having clubs ready to play by Christmas under bizarre circumstances.

"It's one thing to have a summer and fall of strife due to labour negotiations. It's another to be seen as an organization that's in disarray," former coach and ABC/ESPN analyst Jeff Van Gundy said.

Van Gundy blames money, the natural place to start. Owners will save plenty with players agreeing to a 12 per cent reduction in salary costs in the new deal. But in doing so in time to salvage a season, they conceded on many issues necessary to create the competitive balance they said they craved.

So Paul and Howard are trying to force their way



"Maybe in a few years we'll all look back and see why this lockout happened. But right now it's not showing its face at all."

MIAMI HEAT GUARD DWYANE WADE

from small markets to big and there's no guaranteed mechanism to stop them.

"The competitive balance thing was a pie-in-the-sky. We knew that was impossible, in a sense, especially when you've got players willing to take less money to be happy," Miami guard Dwyane Wade said.

That's what Wade, LeBron James and Chris Bosh did so they could team up last summer. Owners could have attempted to block future superteam building with a hard salary cap or franchise tag designations that exist in the NFL, but the players fought the changes to keep a system similar to the old one, giving teams the ability to exceed the cap if they're willing to pay a luxury tax.

The tentative deal on the main issues wasn't reached until Nov. 26, and Stern said the regular season would begin on Christmas if the deal was ratified in time. But it meant free



► The NBA vetoed a trade last Thursday that would have sent the Hornets' star point guard Chris Paul to the Lakers.



► Dominant centre Dwight Howard has requested a trade out of Orlando.



► Kobe Bryant saw L.A. teammate Lamar Odom get shipped off to Dallas.

agency opened the same day as training camps, forcing some teams to report with barely enough players for a starting five.

The NBA is giving teams only 16 days and two exhibition games from the time business reopened until the Christmas Day tipoff — with a whole new set of rules to learn in between.

"The NBA is shooting from the hip. We didn't get rules on the collective bargaining — our ability to sign and trade players — we didn't get it until the day before we opened up camp, and we had a conference call at 8 a.m. the day of camp opening explaining the rules," Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak

said, before shaking his head.

Kupchak went on to trade Lamar Odom, to Bryant's disappointment, to the Mavericks after the Hornets deal fell through.

Stern hasn't commented since a statement last Friday explaining his reasons for vetoing the Paul trade.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flyers' Giroux latest star felled by concussion



► Claude Giroux

Philadelphia Flyers star Claude Giroux is out indefinitely with a concussion.

Flyers general manager Paul Holmgren said yesterday that Giroux's symptoms have become worse since he suffered a head injury against Tampa Bay last week.

"He skated a little bit today; didn't feel that good. Just didn't feel like himself," Holmgren said last night in Washington before the Flyers faced the Cap-

39

Claude Giroux leads the NHL with 39 points and has led the Flyers to the top of the Eastern Conference standings.

tals. "I don't know that there's any good news in this other than after 15 minutes or so, once he stopped skating, he did

start to feel a little better."

The immediate treatment will be rest.

"We're just going to take it easy with Claude," Holmgren said. "We'll probably just give him some time off (today) and revisit again (tomorrow). Obviously we're concerned. Claude is one of our better players and obviously is off to a great start this season. We're going to err on the side of caution."

Giroux took an inadvertent knee to the head by

teammate Wayne Simmonds near the end of the second period on Saturday.

The Flyers said on Monday that Giroux had been feeling better. But another examination yesterday found Giroux has a concussion.

Giroux leads the Flyers with 16 goals and 23 assists. His 39 points were three ahead of Toronto's Phil Kessel for the NHL lead heading into last night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gazing into the near future

- ▶ Audi prepares to enter the hybrid fray in Canada next year with its Q5 Hybrid
- ▶ As writer Jil McIntosh tells us, it's definitely fun to drive, especially in 'Sport' mode

JIL MCINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

When they were introduced, gasoline-electric hybrids were small, basic cars. As the technology matured, so did the vehicles, and today, most premium brands include hybrids in their lineup — as Audi will, when the hybrid SUV goes on sale next summer.

Although they pay more for their vehicles initially, premium-vehicle owners still don't want to spend a lot at the pumps, and they appreciate the fuel savings a hybrid can provide.

That said, while exact pricing is yet to come, the Q5 Hybrid will cost around \$55,000, about \$10,000 more than the non-hybrid Q5 upon which it's based.

There has to be more than just fuel economy, and in this case, it's performance.

The Q5 Hybrid uses the turbocharged, direct-injection 2.0-litre four-cylinder from the regular Q5, with an eight-speed automatic transmission and the company's "Quattro" all-wheel-drive.

An electric motor is sandwiched between the engine and transmission, fed by a 72-cell lithium-ion battery pack mounted under



▶ The 2013 Audi Q5 Hybrid will be available in Canada next summer.

der the cargo floor.

The engine produces 211 horsepower and 258 lb-ft of torque, but when you mash the throttle, the electric motor can add a brief boost to 245 horsepower and 354 lb-ft of torque.

Since electric motors make their peak power right from the start — unlike gasoline engines, which have to rev up — the power surge is immediate.

This hybrid is great fun to drive.

It's a "full" hybrid (but you don't plug it into the wall), capable of starting and running solely on its battery at 60 km/h for up to three kilometres.

If you're already cruising, it can switch over to electricity at speeds of up

2013 Audi Q5



- ▶ **Engine:** Turbocharged 2.0-litre four-cylinder with hybrid system.
- ▶ **Power:** 211 hp/258 torque (gasoline engine); 245 hp/354 torque (maximum hybrid combined).
- ▶ **Fuel consumption:** TBA
- ▶ **On sale:** Summer 2012

to 100 km/h. Come to a stop and the gasoline engine shuts off, although all the electronics continue to function, including the electrically-operated air conditioning.

An animated display in the dash shows what type of power is being used.

The switch from gas to electric happens automati-

cally, although if all the driving conditions are appropriate, you can hit a button to keep it in electric-only mode.

The Q5 is one of my favourites to drive, and when I piloted an early production version on an event in Spain, I discovered that the Hybrid is just more of the same. It's in-

telligently sized, it wraps around corners almost like a sports car, and it's light and agile even though the hybrid system adds 130 kilograms.

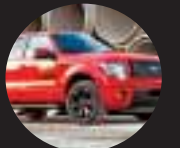
The electric steering is tuned to feel hydraulic, with excellent weight and feedback.

If you don't mind using a bit more gas, you can put the Q5 into "Sport" mode, which makes it feel even sharper on the curves.

The price will be a major factor, and the Q5 Hybrid will probably remain a relatively rare model on Canadian roads, but it's meant to pave the way for yet another innovation: the all-electric Audi E-Tron sports car, which will make the leap from concept to production next year.

5 drive

Award Winner



Ford F-150 nabs Motor Trend honour

The Ford F-150 was named 2012 Truck of the Year by Motor Trend this week. The magazine felt the F-150 best met the award's six key criteria: engineering excellence, advancement in design, efficiency, safety, value, and performance of intended function. "The bottom line is that the F-150 simply excels at being ... a truck. It mastered every task we subjected it to," said Edward Loh, Motor Trend's editor-in-chief. **METRO**

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Top Gear

Many people admit to driving while drowsy, or have actually closed their eyes for a few seconds (or more) while behind the wheel.

According to the American Automobile Association (AAA), fatigue is the cause of nearly 17 per cent of all driving-relat-

ed deaths. To combat this serious issue, ASP Technology of Denmark has developed a dash-mounted, battery-operated sensor. The Anti Sleep Pilot is designed to monitor conditions that might indicate fatigue, such as operator reaction times, vehicle movements, time of day and other pre-programmed inputs.

It then issues both sound and flashing-light alerts before the driver actually falls asleep, and



PHOTOS BY WHEELBASE

not after as some factory-installed systems will do.

The device sells for \$250 US. antisleeppilot.com.

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Just three of the four Type 57 Atlantic Coupes originally produced by Italian automaker Bugatti are still around (one is owned by fashion icon Ralph Lauren).

Now you can purchase a 1:18 scale replica Type 57 from Classical Model Cars to display in your den or on your fireplace man-

tle.

With its seductive teardrop shape and aircraft-inspired aluminum body, the Type 57 was designed by Bugatti's son Jean back in the mid-1930s.

It's widely acknowledged to be one of the world's most beautiful cars. cmc-modelcars.de



It's easy to lose one or more of the tire caps that attach to your vehicle's valve stems, especially if you regularly check or adjust tire pressures. Fix the problem once and for all with a set of No Loss Tire Caps. This product was originally designed for NATO military vehicles and will help maintain tire pressure even if the valve core fails. And because they're made of brass (instead of

aluminum) they won't warp or corrode or seize up due to road salt or moisture. But most importantly, the retaining strap on each No Loss Tire Cap prevents it from getting lost or forgotten in a jacket or pants pocket (the manufacturer claims the strap is strong enough to withstand 130 km/h speeds when not screwed onto the stem). extremeoutback.com.

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SECOND GEAR



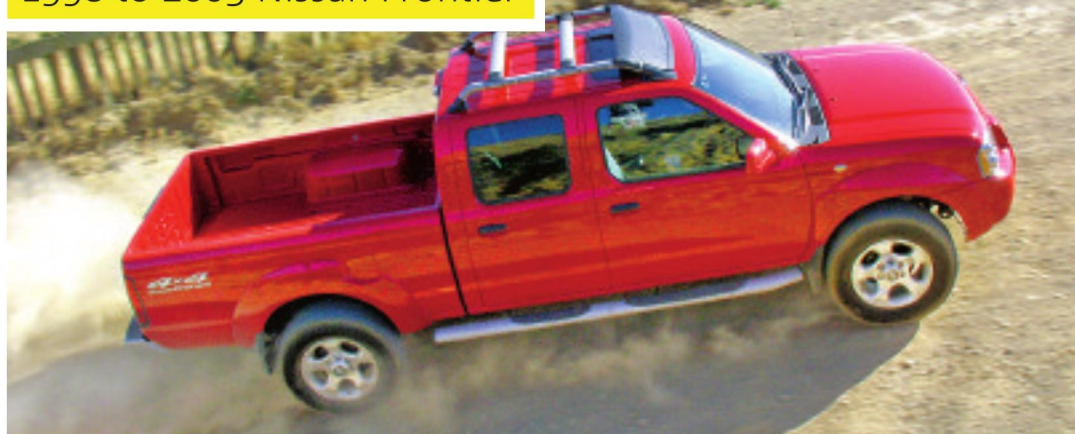
JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONWS.CA

The Nissan Frontier began moving into Canadian driveways as a 1998 model that replaced the Hardbody pickup family.

The Frontier offered more selection and power, and intended to move the brand's small pickup heritage forward.

A compact truck intended to battle the Ford Ranger, Dodge Dakota, Chevrolet Colorado and Toyota Tacoma, Frontier packed plenty of selection and capability.

1998 to 2005 Nissan Frontier



Engine

Look for a 2.4-litre, 143-horsepower four-cylinder on earlier models, as well as a 3.3-litre V-6 with 170 horsepower, or a supercharged variant thereof, producing 210 ponies. Frontier's four and six-cylinder engines could both be teamed with manual or automatics.



What owners like

Existing Frontier owners are big-time into the styling of their machines, as well as their real-world workability. Many owners report satisfaction with overall comfort and off-road capability, too.



What owners dislike

Common complaints include modest power output from the four-cylinder engine and some low-budget interior trim pieces. Additionally, many owners confirm that the Frontier's interior space is on the compact side.



Common issues

Be sure all interior accessories are working and ensure you're able to shift in and out of four-wheel drive modes as outlined in the owner's manual with no undue fuss. While underneath, look for any oily fluid leaking from the bottom of the engine, the differential and the transfer case, if so equipped.

Ultimately, numerous pages of reports from Frontier owners online looked encouraging. Words like "dependable" and "excellent" came up frequently.

Verdict

A visit to your Nissan mechanic is in order for an inspection if you're uncomfortable beneath the truck. Your dealership can also determine if any recall work may be outstanding.

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Mazda takes a rotary break

AUTO PILOT



MIKE GOETZ
DRIVE
@METRONEWS.CA

Mazda didn't invent the rotary engine. Felix Wankel did that in Germany in 1957. But no other automaker, individual, or concern, poured their heart, soul and mind into the rotary engine concept as did the Japanese company from Hiroshima. Mazda bet heavily on the

technology, but soon found the going tough.

Legend has it, that the 47 men who comprised the company's Rotary Research Division toiled 24-7 over many months to overcome every obstacle in their way.

The number 47 has special significance in Japan. All countrymen know the story of the 47 Samurais in feudal Japan who avenged their dishonoured lord after years of hardship.

Mazda's 47 Samurais also fought for honour, the engineering honour of their company and country.

In 1967, Mazda's rotary engine got its first "serial production car" assignment — the Cosmo Sport.

Cosmo's twin-rotor engine has two 491 cc chambers, and spins out 110 hp



► The 2012 model year will be the last for Mazda's RX-8.

at 7,000 r.p.m. The low-volume two-seat, sports coupe was only produced for a couple of years, but looked fetching, and set the tone for Mazda's seminal rotary-engine sports coupes: three generations of the RX-7, and then the RX-8. In 2010, Mazda had to pull RX-8 from the European market after it failed to meet that jurisdiction's emission standards. With another year of

small and waning sales in 2011, the writing was on the wall for the RX-8's departure from other markets — including North America, and now Japan.

Model-year 2012 will be the very last for the RX-8, and the only 2012 models to be had will be 1,000 "Spirit R" models built exclusively for the Japanese market. Mazda has had a rotary engine car in its

Japanese lineup since that 1967 Cosmo. So that streak is done like dinner, kaputt, finis. (I would have liked to throw a Japanese phrase in there too, but my Japanese is limited to food court selections... teriyaki, udon noodles, sashimi, etc.).

Where Mazda goes with rotary technology is anybody's guess. Mazda has always maintained that the rotary engine is particularly

suited for hydrogen fuel, and has developed several hydrogen-rotary projects, including the RX-8 Hydrogen RE.

There are reports that Mazda has a new rotary engine in development, code-named 16X, but the company is not saying very much about it.

For now the company based in Hiroshima seems very focused on SkyActive — a series of technologies for the internal combustion engine. It's always a little sad when good things come to an end. But stay strong my friends.

Better to cry for Argentina than the rotary... Because the betting money is on Mazda resurrecting the rotary engine at some point in the future.

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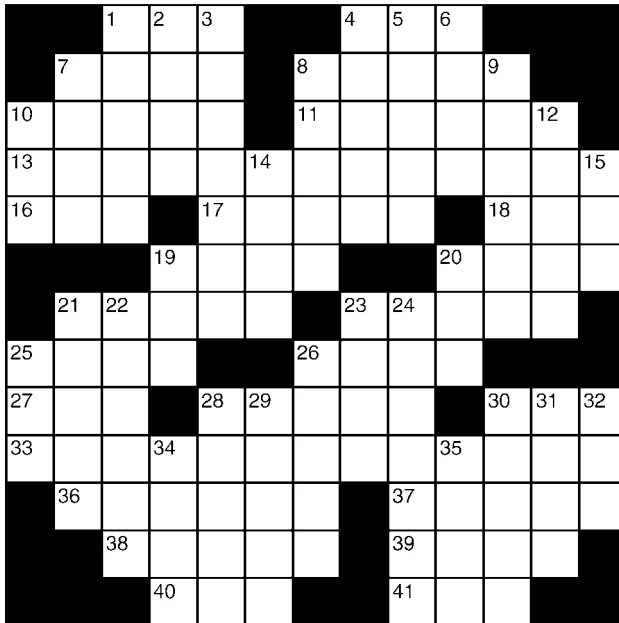
Crossword

Across

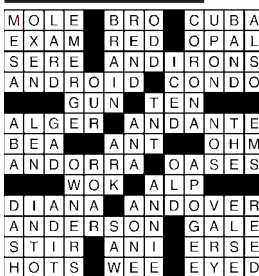
- 1 Suitable
4 Young boxer?
7 Litigious sort
8 Middle Eastern dish
10 Bethlehem's region
11 Ball game segment
13 New Orleans neighborhood
16 Barbie's companion
17 Hosiery shade
18 Shaft of light
19 "An Inconvenient Truth" narrator
20 Enticement
21 Chris of tennis lore
23 1942 vessel
25 Leave out
26 Cartoonist Goldberg
27 Help
28 Inscribed pillar
30 "Suburgatory" ailer
33 Ice cream flavor
36 Evening affair
37 Sorrow
38 Slow critter
39 Ear-related
40 Spring mo.
41 A Bobsey twin

Down

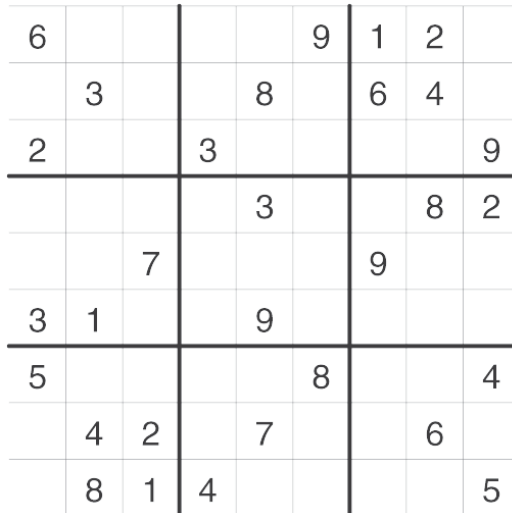
- 1 Poet W.H.
2 Hammerhead part
3 Farm vehicle
4 Piece of cheese-cake?
5 Arm bones
6 Twosome
7 Confident
8 Sharp irritation
9 False
10 NYC airport
12 Toothed wheels
14 Rodgers partner
15 "Catcher in the —"
19 Obtain
20 Caustic solution
21 Eastern potentates
22 "America's Funniest Home —"
23 Island dance
24 Desert
25 Lummo
26 Carouse



► Yesterday's answer



Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ►

4	5	8	7	6	9	2	1	3
1	6	2	8	3	5	7	4	9
3	9	7	1	4	2	8	5	6
6	4	3	5	2	8	9	7	1
8	7	1	4	9	6	3	2	5
9	2	5	3	7	1	6	8	4
2	3	4	6	5	7	1	9	8
7	1	6	9	8	4	5	3	2
5	8	9	2	1	3	4	6	7

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Sonu,
Happy birthday!! Raise the ROOF :) soo cute...hope you have an amazing birthday!!! <3 COCO

ryan, you mean the world to me, i feel lucky to be with you. i love you. YOUR ALWAYS

Niko, Hi, babe i just want to say how happy i am to be with you, you're the greatest thing that has ever happened to me. I love you. Happy anniversary. :) SHOWSTOPPER

Robbie-Bear
to my husband of just over 4 months, and my best friend of more...no I don't think you're too intense, I will always appreciate your loves. We just need to allow each other room to grow together in marriage. Hope you are having a good day at McD's. BOOBSTRESS

Today's horoscope

♈ **Aries** March 21-April 20 You may find it hard to get a straight answer out of certain people over the next 24 hours.

♉ **Taurus** April 21-May 21 Someone's dishonesty may shock you greatly, but you really should have noticed it before. Open your eyes.

♊ **Gemini** May 22-June 21 A colleague may be too vocal in his or her criticism, but there's an element of truth in what is said.

♋ **Cancer** June 22-July 22 If you take on too much, you will sooner or later reach a point where it starts to go wrong.

♌ **Leo** July 23-Aug. 23 Don't let anyone talk you out of doing something on which you have your heart set. You know it'll work.

♍ **Virgo** Aug. 24-Sept. 22 Someone in a position of power may be critical of your work today but don't let it get to you. Maybe he or she has a valid point.

♎ **Libra** Sept. 23-Oct. 23 This is one of those times that if you let negative events get to you, your mood could be darkened for days.

♏ **Scorpio** Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Yes, much may be falling apart — but much more still works beautifully.

♐ **Sagittarius** Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Push ahead with your plans today, even though others say you are aiming way too high.

♑ **Capricorn** Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You're too negative in your outlook. Don't let it get out of hand.

♒ **Aquarius** Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You should seek assistance from people whose knowledge about specific topics is superior to yours.

♓ **Pisces** Feb. 19-March 20. Someone will deceive you today. Keep your annoyance to yourself. Revenge is a dish best served cold.

● SALLY BROMPTON

SETH HARRISON/THE JOURNAL NEWS/AP



Caption contest



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